MEMORANDUM

To: See Distribution

From: Mark Wissinger, P.E.
                  Construction Engineer

Date: June 29th, 2006

Subject: Supplemental Specification Revision: 712.02.8 Wood Fence Posts and Brace
                    Rails and 712.02.8 Wood Fence Posts and Brace Rails

The Construction Administration Services Bureau is proposing revisions to Standard
Specifications 712.02.8 Wood Fence Posts and Brace Rails and 712.02.8 Wood Fence Posts and
Brace Rails**.** Following the Standard Specification Revision Process outlined in the Construction
Engineer's Memorandum dated January 9, 2002 the following information is provided.

1. Standard Specifications: 712.02.8 Wood Fence Posts and Brace Rails and 712.02.8 Wood
    Fence Posts and Brace Rails will be modified.

2. The Proposed Draft of the changes is attached along with this memorandum.

3. Revision to the Standard Specification is needed to align MDT standards with current
    AWPA standards.

4. Those impacted by the change include:
    - Materials Timber Inspectors
    - Suppliers

5. The following individuals were consulted and/or involved in developing the proposed
    revisions:
    - Anson Moffett – Quality Control Engineer
    - Pat Hoy – Timber Inspector

*It is requested that comments on **the proposed revisions only**, be returned to
the Specification Section no later than July 31st, 2006.*

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712.02.8 Wood Fence Posts and Brace Rails

A. **General.** Make fence posts and brace rails from well seasoned, sound, and straight-grained Western Larch, Lodgepole Pine, Ponderosa Pine, or Douglas Fir. Remove all bark from the posts.

Taper round posts to be driven from 8 inches to 12 inches (205 to 305 mm) up from the bottom to a 1-inch (25 mm) point. Taper the post tops to a round top with a minimum 3-inch (75 mm) diameter for line posts and 4-inch (105 mm) diameter for corner, brace, pull, end, and gate posts. These taper lengths are included in the specified post lengths. Perform all machining before treatment. Ensure all round post have a minimum of 1/2" of sapwood unless it naturally occurs thinner. Treat the posts and rails meeting AWPA Standards and Commodity Specification B Use Category 4A requirements and treat the sawn post as specified in Subsection 706.04.

Ensure the posts and rails are straight so that a line running from the center of both ends is within the body of the post or rail.

Treat injuries, cuts, and holes in timber pile after treatment with three applications of copper napthenate solution containing a minimum two percent copper metal meeting AWPA M4 requirements.

B. **Posts for Farm Fence and Interstate Fence.** Furnish line posts and brace rails from a minimum 4-inch (105 mm) diameter round, or a minimum 4-inch x 4-inch (105 mm x 105 mm) square sawn. Furnish corner, end, gate, pull, and brace posts from a minimum 5-inch (130 mm) diameter round post or a 5 x 5-inch (130 mm x 130 mm) square sawn post.

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Treat the posts with a minimum 5 percent by weight pentachlorophenol solution or Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA), Type B or C, or Ammoniacal Copper Arsenate (ACA) meeting AWPA Standards. Assure the treatment penetrates the wood at least 1/2-inch (13 mm) or full sap, with a minimum retention of 0.4 pounds per cubic foot (6.50 kg per cubic meter).¶
Extend the treatment for at least 36 inches (915 mm) for line posts and 48 inches (1,220 mm) for all other posts. Post treatment must be at a Department approved plant.

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